

REMARKS

(1) Claims 1, 2, 4-11 and 13-18 are pending in this application. No new claim has been added in this Response. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claims 3 and 12. Claims 3 and 12 have been cancelled in this Response. The scope of amended claim 1 is the same as cancelled claim 12, and does not change the embodiment covered by the amendment. The amendment of claim 1 does not raise new issues which require further consideration or search. Thus, the amendment of claim 1 should be entered.

(2) Claims 1-8, 12 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,796,428) in view of Yokota et al. (JP 03-089682).

Regarding claim 3, the Examiner considers the disclosure by Matsumoto et al. at col. 8, lines 44-62 and Figs. 2 and 3 corresponds to the limitation of claim 3. Specifically, the Examiner considers that lens 202 and focus controller 205 correspond to the claimed "lens displacing unit" recited in claim 3. Regarding claim 12, the Examiner states that Matsumoto et al. disclose a driving source for the lens displacing mechanism disposed on a lateral side of the taking lens units (Fig. 2; Items 106, 205).

However, Matsumoto et al. do not disclose any specific location of the focus controller 205. See Figs. 2 and 3. Although the Examiner might consider that Matsumoto et al. teach that

the focus controller 205 is disposed on the lateral side of the lens 202, Fig. 2 is a block diagram (col. 6, lines 1-2), which does not teach or suggest specific configuration of the focus controller 205 and the lens 202. Yokota et al. do not disclose any lens displacing mechanism or specific configuration of the lens displacing mechanism and the taking lens unit. Thus, even a combination of Matsumoto et al. with Yokota et al. does make the invention of amended claim 1. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

(3) Claims 9-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto et al. in view of Yokota et al. and Wakabayashi et al.; claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto et al. in view of Yokota et al. and Kikuchi; and claims 15-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto et al. in view of Yokota et al. and Orbach et al.

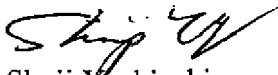
Claims 9-11, 13 and 15-18 depend on amended claim 1. Thus, these claims should be allowed because amended claim 1 is allowable as explained above.

(4) In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date. If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned

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representative at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case. If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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